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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 296. MAY, 1931.

ATONEMENT—FORGIVENESS—SALVATION.

At-one-ment, Forth-giveness, Health (Old English).

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Though not of our communion, a reference to LORD DUNLEATH might be permitted. We have known him in Ballywalter for a kind good neighbour, and both Lady Dunleath and he have extended sympathy and help in the time of deep trial. Nothing need be said here concerning his career which has been set forth in the Press very fully. But, on occasion, Lord Dunleath revealed an interest and knowledge of liberal religious thought, as well as of matters of psychical research. He took a deep interest in Church affairs, in the local diocese, and rendered service as a lay-representative. The interment, which was private, took place at Ballywalter, and was both simple and dignified. The funeral-car known as "the gun-carriage," which was used for Douglas, conveyed the casket from the Park to Ballywalter Church, the procession consisting of members of the family and the men on the estate, being on foot. Simultaneously memorial services were held in Belfast Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

* * *

LORD GLENAVY was rather well-known to some of our members, especially in earlier days as Barrister and K.C., when he was Mr. Campbell; and later on, when as Lord Chief Justice, experience as a witness before him, revealed him as having the courtesy of a true gentleman. He became Lord Chancellor of Ireland and finally Chairman of the Free State Senate, and as such proved himself a valuable guide in intricate and difficult matters of law. The Church of Ireland claimed much of his time and attention, and of two Dioceses he was the Chancellor, faithfully administering the ecclesiastical law as he found it.

TIMOTHY MICHAEL HEALY, K.C, beloved alike by supporters and opponents, ought not to be allowed to pass without notice. He was the first Governor General of the Free State. He was strongly possessed of "the saving grace of humour." An old lady seeing the map of Ireland on a Free State stamp, declared that she was sure "Tim Healy wasn't a bit like that!" A friend coming out of the Dublin Law Courts heard a remark made, "Well, I'm sure, Tim Healy wouldn't have told so many lies, if he hadn't have thought they were true."

* * *

A photograph of the General Assembly's Lay Agents with those of their tutors, appeared in the local papers. The scheme is, to have available in congregations lay assistants who have been trained. The Church of England has now a scheme for an auxiliary ministry, admitting laymen to Holy Orders, without giving up their business life. In another Church, the whole ministry is practically of that kind; doctors, lawyers and gentlemen of private means volunteering for such service.

THE REV. ALEXANDER GORDON, M.A.

A true prophet of God has been among us. A great man—one would need to be great to say that he really knew him! His gifts have been test fied to by those competent to appreciate them; those wonderful powers of mind, his memory, his sound judgment, his skill of language either in speaking or writing, gifts also of the heart as well as the mind; a wide tolerance and understanding of those to

whose opinions he did not give his support, but whom he held in chivalrous esteem; his bodily strength, all were to him sacred trusts to be held for service. Universities offered him honorary degrees, but these he genially declined. "Are you D.D. yet?" he was recently asked. "No" he replied, "I leave that for you in the next life!"

A friend read to him a paragraph from a newspaper, stating that he was the greatest authority, bar none, on the subject of seventeenth century Nonconformity. "Spare my blushes," he exclaimed. Frequently we corresponded. A copy of an old deed, containing names of clergymen ejected in 1662, promptly brought back historical details relating to everyone of them. One got a glimpse of the biographer at work, in a visit to an ancient Church where instantly he rushed round inspecting tablet after tablet for any names that he knew, and suddenly coming on a bust in a corner, he asked "Who is this contemplative divine?" —It was a find—"Hurrah," in a tone almost of awe, and waving his hat—"Zechariah Mudge!" and for a time was lost in admiration of a work of art, little noticed by many who see it; but, in a moment he reeled off the history of the man, how he was the friend of Smeaton, builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse. Then again, away out in the heart of nature, descending into a deep glen, expressing pleasure at the sight of a waterfall, or climbing a mountain to see a Church on the top, his mind ever active, constantly gleaning information. He had the heart of a boy, the simplicity of a child, as well as the sterner qualities of a leader and disciplinarian. He was an independent thinker and was better understood here in the North of Ireland, where the Arian tradition still remains. He believed in the abiding personal presence of Christ with His Church, he believed in the pre-existence of the human soul. He had a deep knowledge of Mysticism—Boehme, Swedenboig and others, he could quote them all. He has entered into a well-earned rest.

JOHN BARRON.

TEMPLEPATRICK.

(A brief sketch thereof by way of Introduction to the members of the forthcoming Sunday School Conference.)

The story of our Congregation in Templepatrick begins a little over three hundred years ago. It is a long story, very full, and can only in these present circumstances be touched briefly and at points. The neighbouring Castle known in those days as Castle Norton, was built, in part, in the year 1611 by Sir Humphrey Norton on Sir Arthur Chichester's land. Sir Humphrey had most likely been an officer of Elizabeth's army in Ireland. Besides being by profession a military man he also took a large interest in the religious movements of the time particularly in a revival which took place at Oldstone (1625) a few miles from here. The Vicar of Templepatrick and Ballymartin, the Rev. Christopher Tracy, M.A., took no interest in the revival and thereby it would seem incurred the displeasure of the Captain who sought how he might depose him and fill his place with another. To find another was not easy. Mr. Shaw, possibly a settler from Ayrshire, who lived at Bentra, a farm immediately behind the Castle on the other side of the Six-Mile-Water, hinted to Norton that he knew of some ministers banished from Scotland who were in hiding in Ireland. Norton expressed a desire to meet one of these. Shaw however suggested that they might be afraid of being discovered but on the Captain giving his word of honour for their safety

> "Within a few days Mr. Shaw brings Mr. Welch to the Castle and introduceth him to the Captain, who, during the time of dinner, and in the evening, was so well pleased with Mr. Welch's company and conversation that he invited him to come and preach in the Church in Templepatrick next Sabbath. Mr. Tracy, the curate minister hearing of this, went to Church a little earlier that morning, and was beginning the service when Captain Norton came to Church, with Mr. Welch at his back, and orders Mr. Tracy to come down from the pulpit; who, with reluctancy, came down, the Captain ordering Mr. Welch to go up, being so well pleased with his performance that he continued him on in the work of the ministry without any other ordination. This happened some time in the year 1621 or '22."

Thus did Josias Welch come to Templepatrick though it is likely his date of arrival was three or four years later than the one given above. Josias was the son of John and Elizabeth Welch. Elizabeth was the third daughter of John Knox, the Scottish Reformer by his second wife Margaret Stewart, "of the blood royal." Josias was therefore of royal descent. He was educated in France, Geneva and at Glasgow. Blair who had been some time settled in Bangor, Co. Down, on a visit home to Scotland met Josias and persuaded him to come to Ireland "where he might find plenty to do." He came, stayed with Shaw at Ballybentra, met Captain Norton, was appointed by him his Chaplain and maintained by him as a puritan lecturer in Templepatrick. Welch was ordained in this country. He visited a Kinsman, Andrew Knox, Bishop of Raphoe, for purpose of

ordination. Bishop Knox was a broad-minded man who ordained candidates either episcopally or (with the aid of a few friends) presbyterially, accordingly as requested. Josias laboured subsequently in the parish of Templepatrick preaching the Gospel to all comers. The celebration of the Lord's Supper. twice a year, was an event of great importance in the religious life of the people and not less than three days were devoted to it on each occasion. The methods of celebration did not commend themselves to Bishop Echlin and among others he deposed Josias Welch from the ministry on 12th May, 1632. He died "in the flower of his age," 1634. His tombstone in the old grave yard nearby bears this inscription—" Here lyeth the body of the Revrent Mr. Josias Welch, Minister of Templepatrick who dyed Anno Dom 1634.

Anthony Kennedy was admitted to the ministry in Templepatrick, 1646-1697. During the rebellion of 1641 the "town" was burned down. Into this ministry we cannot here and now go. Kennedy and his congregation took the side of Charles I as against Cromwell and thereby got themselves into no end of trouble. The first Presbyterian Meeting House here was built 1670.

James Kirkpatrick, M.D., D.D., was admitted to the ministry here August, 1699. He remained seven uneventful years. He was called to First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, and subsequently became the first minister of the Second Congregation. He was the first Belfast minister to uphold the cause of Non-Subscription to creeds.

The present Meeting House was built during the ministry of John Abernethy in 1784 with pecuniary assistance from Clotworthy, first Baron Templetown, at whose instance the present site, still within the demesne walls, was chosen. Entering the meeting-house we note on the left a stained-glass window erected by the late William Kell in 1912 to the memory of his parents Joseph and Jane Kell and his sister Ellen. If one would see a memorial to William himself then all one has to do is to "look around." In 1881 he was the leader of a band of devoted men who reconditioned and reconstructed the meeting-house. They gave it a floor (much needed), a gallery, pews, pulpit and windows; and in 1902 consequent upon the removal by gravity of the flat plaster ceiling they, strengthened by the great devotion and remarkable efforts of the late Arthur McKeown, built the present handsome roof. The faint line running along the side near the top will indicate the height of the original walls, and the line to be seen running across the gable will indicate the height of the original plaster ceiling. The meeting house is at present in excellent condition.

Next to the Kell memorial window is a mural tablet to the memory of two former ministers of the Church each called Robert Campbell, uncle and nephew. Robert Campbell, senr., 1796-1855, was minister before, during and after the "split" thus maintaining an unbroken line with regard to the principle of non-subscription. Under the leadership of Dr. Montgomery he was one of the founders of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster. This minister does not appear to have concerned himself with the rebellion of 1798 but the same cannot be said of the members of his congregation. They, on the disarming of the Irish Volunteers, obtained a couple of brass six-pounder field pieces which they buried beneath the pulpit in the meeting house just beneath the Campbell mural tablet. On 7th June, 1798, one of these guns was brought forth and taken to the battle of Antrim. It is reported that it was twice "let off" but that it did not do much execution. It is to be hoped that it did not do any harm to those who let it off!

Robert Campbell, junr. in addition to attending to his duties in this parish was professor of Greek and Philosophy to students preparing for our ministry. He was the father of the late Sir John Campbell of the Samaritan Hospital, Belfast, and of Robert Campbell, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and of the Children's Hospital, Belfast. Next to the mural tablet is a stained-glass window placed there by Mrs. Robert Campbell to the memory of her husband the eminent surgeon just referred to. This lady and her relatives presented also the lectern and prayer-desk.

On the other side of the Church is a stained-glass window erected by the late Dr. Samuel Johnstone Moore of Glasgow, 1895, to the memory of his parents James and Mary Johnstone Moore of Clady. Accompanying this window was the gift of our organ. These memorials were presented through Dr. James Moore of Belfast. Next to this window stands the War Memorial Tablet.

In the neighbouring burying-ground and immediately in front of the Templetown vault there is a group of graves, recently repaired by the congregation under the guidance and with the financial assistance of the late Sir John Campbell, in which are interred the remains of Josias Welch, Anthony Kennedy,

Robert Campbell senr., Robert Campbell junr., Sir James Campbell and Robert Campbell, F.R.C.S.

The writer asks the reader to please not regard this account of Templepatrick as of the status of an historical memorial but rather to take it as an introduction to our beautiful old meeting-house. It would be impossible for us here to enter into all the political, ecclesiastical and military movements of the past three-hundred years in which this congregation has been more or less involved. Fortunately the story has been set forth by several competent writers and is accessible to all who desire full information.

A.T.

COMBER.

The Moderator, in the early part of his year of office, preached at Comber, and though this was not thought of as an official visit, it might be allowed to count as such. This congregation contains some of our most distinguished laymen, and gives to the denomination very capable and devoted workers in the activities. Both the exterior and the interior of the building make a profound impression on the visitor. The grounds which surround the church and school and manse are beautifully kept, and the interior of the meeting-house is in exquisite taste; rarely would such a perfect type be found of "a place where prayer is wont to be made." It seems to be redolent of sacred memories. It was a very great pleasure to address the Sunday School, which is fortunate in having a commodious building, as well as highly efficient teachers. There seemed to be a good "tone" in the school. The large number of young men and women at the service and the life and loyalty which animates them is an encouraging feature. The choir is everything that can be desired, and would be difficult to beat. The Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Davies have a strong hold on the esteem and affections of the congregation, which must mean a great influence in the district. Mr. Davies' zeal and qualities as a preacher are well-known, and Mrs. Davies is known throughout the denomination as an accomplished platform speaker and preacher. There is a great deal upon which the congregation is to be congratulated and on which it can in many respects give a lead to the Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church.

STANHOPE STREET MISSION, BELFAST.

The Moderator had a very happy evening at the Mission on Sunday, March 22nd. Tea and hot buttered toast and a warm fire awaited him in the vestry, and the old scout master awoke in him in the presence of Wolf-cubs, and the Scout uniform. The church was filled for the service, every seat being taken up, and the choir showed itself well-trained with beautiful voices. Reports appear in these columns relating to the mission; but, undoubtedly a really splendid work is being done here. The "N.S.P. Church" according to the constitution of the mission has no hold on it as part of its own organisation, as the mission is unsectarian. None the less, practically it is part of our work as a Church. The Moderator gave an address on the words —"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and the surroundings seemed to be such as to call out evangelical fire. The Missioner, Mr. N. Kirkham is to be congratulated and deserves to be heartily supported in his untiring, unselfish work.

MODERATOR.

NEWRY.

On Sunday, April 12th, the Moderator visited Newry. Most of the congregation come from the country. Three-fourths of the population in Newry are Roman Catholics. There was a very good congregation at the morning service. The pipe organ erected within the last year or two gives a very handsome effect to the interior. The Church outside and in is one of which the denomination might well be proud, and retains its freshness. It was opened by Dr. Montgomery and Rev. J. Scott Porter in 1858. The large proportion of men to women in the congregation is rather a striking feature, being about three to one. Newry is a very fine town, and the visit was most enjoyable.

MODERATOR.

Seaweed

On the Ards the custom prevails of eating dulse (or dullis). It is a very good habit according to Professor Cavanagh, who shows, by chemical analysis, the superiority of seaweed over the earth plants, in so far as mineral content is concerned. There is nothing in the world so rich in iodine as this is. As a food for humans its value is as wide as the frailties and shortcomings of diet.

OBITUARIES.

Rev. Frank K. Freeston.

The Rev. Frank K. Freeston was the son of the Rev. Joseph Freeston, whose name remains endeared in many memories in the North of England, especially in connection with Sunday Schools. For some years past, the Rev. Frank Freeston had given up entirely all connection with ministerial work, because of an accident to his head, in falling from a motor-bus. He is mentioned here because of a relationship with the editor, and further because of the very great interest he took in our church. He would have desired to have seen the same organisation in England. He was one of Dr. Martineau's last pupils, and preached a broad Liberal Christianity. The prayer-book he produced in connection with Essex Church, reveals, what he meant, when he expressed the wish that the church idea were better understood among our congregation. His, was a life of full and useful work. He exercised a very powerful influence in the denomination, and there are many who will feel his loss very deeply.

Charles Wicksteed.

Mr. Charles Wicksteed published in 1929, a book "By-gone Days and Now" pleading for co-operation between Labour, Brains and Capital. Several ministers received a copy of that book, and laymen among us, who have read it, refer to it as a very good work. Mr. Wicksteed was the son of the Rev. Charles Wicksteed and brother of the well known Rev. Dr. Philip H. Wicksteed, who is remembered for his University Extension Lectures on Dante. The late Rev. H. S. Verschoyle, of Rubane, near Ballyhemlin, possessed the finest collection of Dante in Ireland, and looked to Dr. P. Wicksteed as an authority. Mr. Charles Wicksteed from small beginnings built up a successful engineering business at Kettering, and did a tremendous amount of useful public work. Perhaps his best memorial will be the beautiful public park, the souvenir of which containing coloured views of it, is before the writer at the moment. His fellow townsmen insisted on the park having his name, so that it is known as the Wicksteed Park.

Miss Mary Cameron Robinson, Glenarm,

We regret to record the death of Maureen Robinson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Robinson, Vennel Street, Glenarm. Maureen, who had been in failing health for the past two years, passed peacefully away on Thursday afternoon, 9th April, at the early age of 18 years. For some years she was a member of the choir, and always ready to assist in any way she could. Of a bright and cheerful disposition, Maureen endeared herself to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. The funeral, which was largely attended by members of all denominations in the district, took place on Saturday afternoon, 11th April. Prior to the interment in the Old Meeting House Green, her minister conducted a short service in the house, also in the meeting house, and at the graveside. At the close of the service, Miss Lily Robinson, who presided at the organ, played the "Dead March in Saul." We tender sincere sympathy to the relatives in their bereavement.

Ulster Unitarian Christian Association

Annual Meetings

The Annual Sermons on behalf of the Association were preached in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Sunday, April 12th, by the Rev. J. Shaw Brown of Clough.

On Monday evening, 13th April, the Annual Meeting was held in the Central Hall, and there was a fair attendance of Subscribers and friends. The chair was taken by W. Jardine Baxter, B.A., of Dromore, and after devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Rev. J. Barron, the Rev. G. J. Slipper (Hon. Sec.) read the Committee's Report and submitted the Treasurer's Balance Sheet, both of which were unanimously adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. D. Godding.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Rev. J. Shaw Brown for preaching the sermons which were much appreciaied, was passed, on the motion of Mr. Harold Thomas, seconded by Mr. C. J. McKisack, and Mr. Brown responded and delivered a most interesting address on Why Unitarians are Unpopular? a fuller report of which we hope to print in the next issue.

A resolution bearing tribute to the memory and services of the Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A. and extending sympathy with his surviving sons was, on the motion of the Rev. J. A. Kelly, seconded by Rev. J. Barron and supported by the Chairman, passed in solemn silence, all standing.

The resolution expressing adherence to the principles of the Association was moved by

the Moderator, seconded by Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Walter Roberts moved, and Mr. J. H. Gilliland seconded the appointment of the Committee for 1931-32. There being 12 nominations only, a ball t was not necessary. The Rev. G. J. Slipper was re-appointed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer on the motion of Mr. W. McRoberts, seconded by Mr. H. J. F. Orr. The usual thanks to the Chairman for presiding, the Tea makers, the Minister and Committee of First Presbyterian Church for use of the Church, and to Mrs. S. Ervine and her friend for musical items, was proposed by Mr. John McCleery, B.A., seconded by Rev. G. J. Slipper, unanimously passed.

During the evening Mrs. S. Ervine delighted the audience by her singing, Miss Edna Kennedy kindly acted as accompanist, and tea was served under the supervision of Miss McCaw, Miss McIlwrath and Miss N. McKisack.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

Ballyclare—Under the auspices of this branch a special Musical Service was held in the Church on Easter Sunday—Mr. Agnew of York Street was the preacher. Mrs. Moore was responsib e for the music and her well-trained choir gave us of their best.

Unfortunately (owing to a preaching engagement in Downpatrick) our own minister was not able to be with us—but he was well represented by a very large party from the Manse. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Larne congregation—Mr. Begg, Mr. Turner and Mr. Bell for their loyal support on that day.

This Service and a "Celebrity Tea," which was held on the following Friday are effects to help reduce the sum we made ourselves responsible for when the Manse was renovated.

Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

The Moderator has received a request signed by the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, to make an appeal to the Congregations "that an opportunity should be given to all children to contribute towards the relief of their less happily situated brothers and sisters, and to sanction a Children's Day Offering by a special collection at the services." The letter is being placed before the General Purposes Committee, who no doubt will recommend that we fall into line with other denominations in this matter. This has nothing to do with the Montgomery Memorial Fund, which is of a more specific nature. The cost of the new Hospital will be £113,000.

The Primate has written from Armagh expressing his support of the proposal, and Bishop Mageean has sent a personal subscription and has promised to bring the matter before a meeting of the priests of Belfast to be held in May, as apparently in his church the parish priest controls the area over which he is in charge. Bishop Grierson is sympathetic, and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church has referred the matter to the Convener on Social Services in connection with that church, whi'e the Rabbi has promised to do what he can and is giving the matter his utmost attention. I trust therefore that when more definite replies are received from the various churches, a special Sunday may be set apart as a Children's Offering on behalf of their sick brothers and sisters.

BAPTISM.

HENDERSON.—Marion Gertrude Henderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs J. M. Henderson, born 11th September, 1930. Baptised 25th March, 1931, at "Kalamaria," Cultra, Craigavad, Co Down, by Rev. Sidney P. Whitehouse.

MARRIAGE.

PETERSON-CURRY.—At Westminster Presbyterian Manse (Canada), February 27th, 1931, by the Rev. George Kyle Bamford. Andrew Ivor Peterson to Lillian Jane Curry (late of Ballyhalbert, Co. Down).

DEATHS.

FREESTON.—On March 25th, at Headland Cottage, Limpsfield, Surrey, the Rev. Frank Kerry Freeston, beloved husband of Maude Mary Freeston, aged 71. remated at Golders Green.

ROBINSON.—On April 9th, 1931, at Vennel St., Glenarm, Co. Antrim. Mary Cameron (Maureen) eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Robinson. Interred at the Old Meeting House Green.

WICKSTEED.—On March 19th, at his residence, Bryn, Hafod, Kettering, suddenly, Charles Wicksteed, aged 83.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Because of necessary curtailment of space, the Editor cannot accept correspondence. Acknowledgment to G.P.J.

N.B.—Editorial Communications should be sent to the Rev. J. BARRON, BALLYWALTER, Co. Down, not later than MAY 20th.

THE Y.M.C.A.

A Commission of International Survey of the Y.M.C.A. has been issuing interrogatories. The following is a summary of the reply of Tra Victoria Gucovsky (which sounds Hungarian): "I believe that the most serious difficulties which the Association has to contend with are the hostility, and also passive resistance of elements **whose entrance into the Association would be very beneficial.**"

(1) The Y.M.C.A. is accused of having a mission of religious proselytism.

(2) The entrance fee and monthly subscription are suitable to those who are well off, and exclude the greater part of the population.

The first charge I consider of major importance, since every declaration of a definite religious aim raises a barrier between those who show this tendency, and those who see in every definite religious tendency a system which is limitation. Every definite religious system is one division more among men. . . . . The teachings of Christ were from His mouth a living fire, but they were never used to create any religion or church . . . . . I propose that all special mention of religious tendencies be omitted from the prospectus, while the highest concept of spirituality, which embraces all Christian teachings perfectly, be introduced."

To what extent is family worship still continued among us? Among some better-class families there may still be family prayers; but in Scotland it was a common feature of Scottish family life, and may yet be found in many a cottage home. It has its re-action on church attendance and membership, for religious duties become "second nature" by their habitual practice. It is in contrast to English methods that on a pastoral visitation in Ulster, a minister should engage in Scripture-reading and prayer.

Subsidy Fund

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges with thanks a donation of 10/- from Miss Warnock, Hillrise, Newry.

DRY WATER.

One of the first elementary things in chemistry is that water consists of hydrogen and oxygen. Prof. A. Low in the "Daily Express" writes—"It has been discovered that although water consists in the main of small particles in which there is one of oxygen to carry every two of hydrogen, other combinations occur. If these other water-like materials which form part of the ordinary water are removed, and the water is, so to speak, chemically dried, the resulting liquid is quite different in the properties from the water we obtain from the tap. It will not boil until well over one hundred degrees Centigrade, and shows all kinds of strange reluctance to freezing." A "vehicle" is needed for the exchange of various constituents, and that is the case in other chemical actions.

The "Jewish Press" describes a united service in which Jews and Christians took part, together with representatives of Mohammedanism, Hinduism and the Siklu, held on the Jewish New Year, in the Grace Episcopal Church, New York, under the auspices of the Fellowship of Faiths. Such an event was the first of its kind in history. All joined together in chanting Jewish Scriptures. "The Jewishness of Jesus was very much stressed at the meeting by all the Gentile speakers, Christians, as well as others. The non-Christian Gentiles said that the thing that amazed them most when they began to study Christianity was the bitter hatred that the Christian Church had shown in the past towards Jews because of the crucifixion story when one remembers that Christianity was in the beginning simply another Jewish sect, a direct descendant of the older Judaism of Moses and

An Irish woman was searching for the whisky bottle in a dark room.

"What are you looking for?" asked the husband.

"Nothin', Pat," she replied.

"Sure," said Pat, "an' ye'll find it in the bottle where the whisky was."—"Daily Express."

REPORTS.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, as such, is not responsible for any opinion or declaration in this Magazine, by whomsoever expressed, unless contained in an official document. Writers of published articles are alone responsible for opinions therein expressed. The Editor, while desirous of allowing opportunity for full and varied contributions, must point out that space is very limited. This Magazine is not a commercial venture, though it is desired that it shall become self-supporting; but as it is designed to serve the N.S.P. Church, even though it is comparatively small both in size and circulation, still it is the Church's own Magazine, and claims the right of loyal and generous support.

All Souls', Belfast—The attention of members and friends is called to the alternative methods of paying stipend. There is the envelope system of paying a small amount each week. This system of payment by small regular contributions might commend itself to younger worshippers especially. Activities reported in the Calendar are "Branch of the Women's League," Badminton Club, Dramatic Society, "At-Home, Bridge Drive." [Ed.]

Downpatrick.—The Rev. James McNeil of Rawtenstall, Lancashire, has received and accepted a call from this congregation. Ed. Glasgow Univ., 1889-94; Bapt. Union of Scotland Theological Hall, 1892-94; Rawdon Coll., 1894-95; Minister (Baptist), 1897-1922; (Unitarian), Stannington, 1925-28; Rawtenstall, 1928. The installation is expected to take place in June.

Templepatrick—The Congregation in Templepatrick are at present engaged in the renovation of their meeting-house. They are anxious that it should look at its best when they receive the Sunday School Conference on 6th June. In order to meet the extra expenditure involved they have decdied to hold a special service on Sunday evening, 17th May, at 6-30 o'clock, when the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., of Belfast will preach. We would suggest that our motoring friends and any others who can make the journey should go out to Templepatrick on the occasion; they might find it an interesting pilgrimage and incidentally they could help our friends there.

Banbridge—A delightful Social (with tea most enjoyable) was held in the Dunbar Memorial P.E.S., on Thursday night, the 9th April. After tea, all eyes were directed towards the stage, wonderfully illuminated and with new paper and effects. First there was a programme of songs, recitations and a piano solo. The solo on piano came first, very nicely rendered by Miss Elsie Martin. Then the Glee "Sweet and Low" by many of our young people. Miss Helen Stevenson (an organist) and Mr. Kenneth Shooter gave us, in their usual delightful vein, a couple of song duets. Both these artistes also sang with very great acceptance some song solos. Little Miss Georgie Stevenson pleased us all with her short recitation "The Alarm Clock," and Miss Dorothy Godding was a real Irish Colleen in her wonderful rendering of four pieces from A. A. Milne, and from Miss Shane's "Piper's Tunes." We were very pleased to see Miss Dornan with us again, who of course, assisted with the accompanying

All this was most enthusiastically received and yet was but the first part of programme for there was still the Farce to come "The Colonel's Consent" (strongly recommend this to the attention of those seeking a short rollicking farce). The Colonel (Mr Willie Matchett) had a difficult part, but he was splendid. Griggs, the valet (Mr. Russell Martin) was a real tragedian, Makel (Miss Susan Wilson) was so naturally sweet and attractive, and Kate (Miss Dorothy Godding) was indeed Kate, and then the minister himself took Charlie's part wherein the dressing up incident evoked roars of laughter. It looks as though Banbridge young people can have a really first-class Dramatic Society for the whole of the acting was remarkably good, and did not look like a first attempt, which it was for most. All pronounced the whole evening's programme as one of the best ever given, and showed what youth can do.

Belfast First Church—On Easter Sunday evening Mr. Albert Taylor, A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., the organist, and the choir of the First Church rendered selections from Spohr's Oratorio "The Last Judgment" at a special Musical Service. This is the second time they have given the work this winter, and the repetition justified itself, especially on the time to which the music is set, from the Book of Revelation, are very suitable to the Easter season, when the thoughts of the Christian Church naturally turn to the City beyond death, the City eternal in the heavens. The rendering was one of moving, uplifting, and

SOW

STEELE'S "EXCELSIOR" SEEDS

AND

REAP GOOD HARVESTS

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BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

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OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

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The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,

35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec

19 Lime Street, Belfast

consoling power, and showed that the Church does well to follow the best traditions and not neglect the ministry of sacred music. The minister gave a few introductory words on Spohr and a brief address on the vital truth of the perennial resurrection of Christ in the heart and life of Christians, as proclaimed of his own experience, by St. Paul. On that is based the true apostolic succession in Christendom. The Soloists were Miss Adelade Beattie, Miss Victoria Gordon, L.R.A.M., Mr. Corlett and Mr. T. Laird.

The Rosemary Dramatic Society has had a strenuous season and for the second time gave a public evening in the Central Hall, presenting on April 8th, scenes from Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," and also Sir J. R. Barrie's play, entitled "The Will," to a large audience. The memorising of some parts was not perfect, nor was the enunciation in all cases beyond criticism, but in a busy world it is not always easy to get full attendance at rehearsals. Nevertheless, the resolve to attempt Shakespeare is a credit to this young society and justified itself. The leading parts of Shylock, Portia, Antonio and Bassanio, taken by R. Harkness, E. Browne, A. McNeill, and E. McCafferty, deserve high commendation, but the caste as a whole did well, and they are to be congratulated also on the picturesque and effective costumes, which were all "home made" and gave the play the right atmosphere.

"The Will" is a Play which demands rather more than all the actors could give. The first scene went best and the honours of the piece must go to Mr. Andrew McNeill as Mr. Devises, a solicitor; in a minor part Mr. Ronald Pringle took well.

The Society is to be congratulated on the progress it has made in two years and on the possession of some members with dramatic talent, while the indefatigable labours of Mr. R. Harkness and Mr. Andrew McNeill in general organisation and production command the highest appreciation.

Ballyhemlin.—Friends will be interested to see the notice of marriage of Jeannie Curry, The newspaper extract announcing the marriage has big headlines: "Lillian Curry and Andrew Peterson united in marriage." Lovely Early Spring Wedding solemonized at Westminister Manse. If it had been Westminister Abbey, there could'nt have been a better show. The dresses of bride and bridesmaid are minutely described, and the reception at the home of the bride's Uncle and Aunt. The three-tiered wedding-cake centring the table, the singing and the dancing, and the wedding gifts are all described. Space does not permit the full report, but Ballyhemlin sends good wishes.

Mountpottinger—On Thursday, April 2nd. the newly decorated Schoolroom was crowded with an appreciative audience. The occasion was the Choir Concert arranged and produced by our Organist, Mr. H. Shepherd, who had the valuable assistance of Mr. L. Watters, Choir Secretary. For this special event Mr. Shepherd had sought the assistance of some outside friends as will be seen from the names those of contributing to the programme. The only criticism passed after the event was that the progamme was far too good for the modest charge of sixpence. In addition to the choir the following artistes contributed to the excellent entertainment: Mr. J. Allen, Contralto; Miss Elva Orr, Contralto; Mr. R. Wallace, Tenor; Mr. Sam Adams, Baritone; Mr. Tom Reynolds, Humorist; Mr. W. M'Cauley, Conjuror; Mr. H. Shepherd, Accompanist. The programme was concluded by a Humorous Sketch entitled "Fun in a Registry Office" in which the parts were well sustained by the following members of the choir: Mrs. Linton, Misses B. M'Minn, M. M'Donald, M. Doyle, V. Martin and Messrs W. W. Wilson and A. Beattie. In the enforced absence, through illness, of the Minister, Mrs. J. H. Ewbank moved a hearty vote of thanks to all the artistes and this was enthusiastically given. E.R.J.

The Minister's Reward.

Success in the ministry is not the Christian minister's true reward, it is an earnest, but the wages still wait. The approbation of your fellowmen you must not look upon as being the reward of excellence, for often you will meet with the reverse; you will find your best actions miscontrued, and your motives ill interpreted. If you are looking for your reward *here* I may warn you of the Apostle's words "If in this life only we have hope we are of all men most miserable" because other men get their reward, even the Pharisee gets his. It is not unmitigated kindness nor unmingled love that we receive even from the saints. Spurgeon

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Life has no creed, no belief,
It is of no nation, of no sanctuary;
Not bound by birth or by death,
Neither male nor female.